

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 43rd Legislature (1992)

SENATE BILL NO. 655

BY: STIPE

AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT RELATING TO ABSENTEE VOTING; AMENDING 26 O.S. 1991, SECTIONS 14-115.4 AND 14-115.5, WHICH RELATE TO IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING AND ABSENTEE VOTING BOARDS; STATING CERTAIN OFFICE HOURS; AUTHORIZING COUNTY ELECTION BOARD SECRETARY TO DESIGNATE LOCATION FOR ABSENTEE VOTING BOARDS; REQUIRING IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTER TO SIGN CERTAIN REGISTRY; REQUIRING CERTAIN PERSONS TO WITNESS SIGNATURE; ALLOWING SECRETARY OF STATE ELECTION BOARD TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN ENVELOPES; ELIMINATING CERTAIN AFFIDAVIT; REQUIRING CHAIRMEN OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES TO PROVIDE LIST OF ABSENTEE VOTING BOARD MEMBERS BY CERTAIN DATE; AUTHORIZING ONE MEMBER OF ABSENTEE VOTING BOARD TO RECEIVE CERTAIN MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 1991, Section 14-115.4, is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-115.4 A. A registered voter may apply for an in-person absentee ballot ~~during regular office hours~~ at the office of the county election board or at a location to be determined by the

county election board secretary from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on
Thursday, Friday and Monday immediately preceding any statewide
election and on Monday only for all other elections. As part of the
application for an in-person absentee ballot such registered voter
shall swear or affirm that he or she has not ~~applied for~~ voted a
regular mail absentee ballot and that he or she will not vote at the
regular polling place in the election for which the in-person
absentee ballot is requested.

B. One or more absentee voting boards shall be on duty during
regular office hours ~~in the office of the county election board at a~~
location to be determined by the county election board secretary on
Thursday, Friday and Monday immediately preceding any statewide
election and on Monday only for all other elections. If the
secretary of a county election board receives an application from a
registered voter requesting to vote by in-person absentee ballot the
secretary shall cause to be implemented the following procedures:

1. An absentee voting board shall provide to each registered
voter who applies for an in-person absentee ballot appropriate
ballots and materials as may be necessary to vote;

2. The voter must sign an in-person absentee voter record and
his signature on such registry must be certified by both members of
the absentee voting board;

3. The voter must mark his ballots in the manner provided by
law in the presence of the absentee voting board, but in such a
manner as to make it impossible for any person other than the voter
to ascertain how said ballots are marked. Insofar as is possible,
the voting procedure shall be the same as if the voter were casting
his vote in person at a precinct;

~~3.~~ 4. The voter shall than seal said ballots in ~~the plain an~~
opaque envelope ~~and shall seal said plain opaque envelope in the~~
~~envelope bearing an affidavit. The voter must complete said~~

~~affidavit, and his signature on same must be witnessed by both members of the absentee voting board;~~

~~4. The envelope bearing an affidavit then must be sealed in another envelope, prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board which shall be deposited in the locked ballot box provided for regular mail absentee ballots; and~~

5. Ballots cast in said manner shall be counted in the same manner as regular mail absentee ballots.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 1991, Section 14-115.5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-115.5 To carry out the provisions of Section 14-115 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes and Section 3 of this act, the secretary of the county election board shall designate one or more absentee voting boards, to be composed of two (2) members each, with each member to be of a different political affiliation. No later than August 1, ~~1974, and each two (2) years thereafter~~ in each even-numbered year, the chairmen of the county central committees of the two political parties having the highest number of registered voters in the county shall each submit a list of ten names to the secretary. Said lists shall contain names of registered voters of the county, who may be members of the county election board, except the secretary, or precinct election boards or counters. The secretary shall be confined to said list in designating membership on the absentee voting board or boards, unless all persons on said lists are ineligible or unwilling to serve. In the event the chairman of the county central committee of a political party fails to submit a list as herein provided, the secretary shall appoint membership to said board or boards from the ranks of registered voters of said party within the county. Provided further, that in the event the list of names of either or both parties is exhausted and additional absentee voting boards are needed, the secretary shall appoint additional members to said boards from the ranks of

said party or parties in the county. Members of an absentee voting board shall be reimbursed for their expenses at the rate of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per day. One member of each such board serving a nursing home or convalescent hospital shall be allowed mileage reimbursement at the rate prescribed for travel by state employees according to the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

43-2-1571

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